

REMARKS

Claims 11-35 are pending; and of these, claims 11 and 18 have been amended, and claims 24-29 have been withdrawn from consideration. Reconsideration of the instant application is respectfully requested in view of this Paper.

The Examiner has objected to the specification, and specifically with respect to paragraphs eleven (11) and 12 thereof as noted at page two (2) of the Office Action. Applicant has amended the aforementioned paragraphs, as provided above, in a manner which is believed to obviate further objection on the bases stated by the Examiner. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

The Examiner has also objected to claim 11 with respect to the informalities noted at paragraphs three (3) and four (4) of the Office Action. Applicant has amended claim 11 so as to remove further basis for objection with respect to the noted informalities; accordingly, it is respectfully requested that the objections be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected claim 18 under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which Applicant regards as the invention; and specifically because of the assertion that the features therein of, "said exterior surface," and "the substantially conical takeout angle" lack antecedent basis. As shown on the

listing of claims above, Applicant has amended claim 18 in a manner which obviates further rejection with respect to the asserted lack of antecedent basis. Therefore, it is respectfully requested that the rejection be withdrawn.

The Examiner has rejected (1) claims 11-13, 14-16, 22-23, 30-32 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Rufin et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 4,975,014) ; (2) claims 11-13, 15-19, 22, 30-31 and 34-35 under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Takuma et al. (JP 6-226458); (3) claim 14 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takuma et al. in view of Nakamura et al. (JP 4-19032); (4) claims 20-21 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takuma et al.; (5) claims 11-23 and 30-35 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Takuma et al., Nakamura et al. and Matsuzaki et al. in view of De Bell et al. (U.S. Pat. No. 5,248,869), Fukizawa (JP 11-291057) and Ichikawa (JP 5-277750). With respect to Applicant's claims, as amended, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant has amended Applicant's claim 11 to recite Applicant's receiving element, comprising a bolt having an exterior surface that is substantially parallel to a longitudinal axis of the bolt and that can be introduced into a bore in at least one component, said bolt consisting of wear-resistant sintered material and including an axial recess at a forward end of said bolt and which is positioned along said longitudinal axis, said recess defining a recess bottom; and

a tip comprised of metal arranged at the forward end of said bolt, the tip including an end section which engages in said recess above said recess bottom, said recess being positioned in a connecting area provided at the forward end of said bolt which extends only over a portion of an entire length of said bolt, and a forward section which projects axially out of said bolt, said tip further comprising a transition area being interposed between the forward section of said tip and the forward end of said bolt and which is in contact with said forward end of said bolt, said transition area tapering to said forward section of the tip in a manner such that the receiving element has a stepped exterior contour, said forward section having a maximum external diameter that is less than a corresponding exterior diameter of said bolt by a prescribed amount.

Rufin et al., Takuma et al., Nakamura et al., Matsuzaki et al., DeBell et al., Fuzikawa or Ichikawa, either when taken alone or in combination, fails to teach or suggest Applicant's recited receiving element. More particularly, there is no teaching or suggestion of Applicant's receiving element and its feature in which the bolt thereof consists of wear-resistant sintered material and includes an axial recess at a forward end of said bolt and which is positioned along said longitudinal axis, said recess defining a recess bottom, in combination with Applicant's receiving element tip (being) engage[d] in said recess above said recess bottom, together with said tip comprising a transition area being interposed

between the forward section of said tip and the forward end of said bolt and which is in contact with said forward end of said bolt.

Ruffin et al. discloses a fastener 10. The fastener 10 includes a pin 12 that forms a shank 20 along which is provided an inset portion 23 between shoulder portions 25 and 26 of the shank 20. Further provided is a pair of inserts 13 which, through matching radii of curvature with the inset portion 23, conform to and bear against the inset portion. Such construction assists in fitting the pin 12 with the nut 16 of Ruffin et al.

The Examiner asserts that the inset portion 23 of Ruffin et al. equates to Applicant's claimed recess. This is not the case. Instead, the inset portion 23 merely represents an area which is offset from the longitudinal axis of the pin 12 so as to provide the shank 20 with a conforming bearing surface against which the inserts 13 can be placed. At least in this way, the inset portion 23 does not equate to Applicant's axial recess in which such recess is an axial recess at a forward end of said bolt and which is positioned along said longitudinal axis (of said bolt).

Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Ruffin et al. fails to teach or suggest Applicant's receiving element, as recited in Applicant's claims, as amended. Thus, it is respectfully requested that the rejection(s) based on Ruffin et al. be withdrawn.

Takuma et al. and the Examiner's application thereof at page eight (8) of the Office Action also fail to teach or suggest Applicants' recited receiving element.

Like Ruffin et al., Takuma et al. fails to teach or suggest Applicant's recited axial recess. In this regard, and with respect to the Examiner's asserted recess 4 of Takuma et al., Applicant respectfully submits that the portion of the Takuma et al. construction which is considered to equate to Applicant's recess is, contrastingly, a bore. That is, the bore 4 is a through-opening provided in Takuma's portion 2 through which its pin stem is received for disposing its stem end to the welding machine to which it is to be attached. As such, the bore 4 does not equate to Applicant's axial recess, and more particularly, such recess as recited in Applicant's claims, as amended, in which such recess defin[es] a recess bottom in combination with Applicant's receiving element tip is engage[d] in said recess above said recess bottom.

Also, Takuma et al. fails to teach or suggest Applicant's receiving element in which Applicant's bolt thereof consists of wear-resistant sintered material so as to provides a bolt of only such material and within which Applicant's tip is received.

Takuma et al., on the other hand, provides for a bolt, as referenced at page eight (8) of the Office Action, that comprises multiple materials in addition

to a wear-resistant sintered material. Accordingly, Takuma et al. fails to teach or suggest Applicant's bolt consisting of wear-resistant sintered material.

Further, Takuma is also deficient with respect to any teaching or suggestion of Applicant's receiving element, as now recited, and in which the transition area thereof comprises a portion of Applicant's recited receiving element tip which is in contact with the forward end of Applicant's bolt. Demonstration of such deficiency is highlighted by the Examiner's indication that Takuma's asserted taper "5" is a portion of the asserted bolt 1. Page eight (8) of the Office Action.

In addition to being individually asserted to anticipate Applicant's claimed receiving element, the Examiner has further asserted Takuma et al. in combination with Nakamura et al. and Matsuzaki et al. ("Takuma collective") in view of the combination of De Bell et al., Fuzikawa and Ichikawa ("De Bell collective").

As stated above, Takuma et al. fails to teach or suggest multiple features of Applicant's receiving element as recited in Applicant's claims, as amended. Nakamura et al. and Matsuzaki et al., either when taken alone or in combination with Takuma et al., similarly fail to teach or suggest such features.

De Bell et al. discloses a locating pin 10 including a tip portion 14. However, nowhere in De Bell et al. is there any teaching or suggestion of

Applicant's recited tip comprising a forward section which projects axially out of said bolt, and which further comprises a transition area being interposed between the forward section of said tip and the forward end of said bolt which is in contact with the forward end of Applicant's bolt, said transition area tapering to said forward section of the tip in a manner such that the receiving element has a stepped exterior contour. Fuzikawa and Ichikawa likewise fail to provide any teaching or suggestion of Applicant's recited tip, as provided in Applicant's claims, as amended.

Thus, in view of the above, Applicant's claims, as amended, are believed to patentably distinguish over Rufin et al., Takuma et al., Nakamura et al., Matsuzaki et al., DeBell et al., Fuzikawa and Ichikawa, either when taken alone or in combination.


Further, rejoinder of claims 24-29 is respectfully requested in view of the above.

No fee is believed due. If there is any fee due the USPTO is hereby authorized to charge such fee to Deposit Account No. 10-1250.

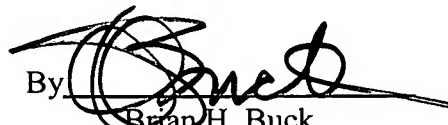
In light of the foregoing, the application is now believed to be in proper form for allowance of all claims and notice to that effect is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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